5; Dobby K-4 (no date) 1950 ALl Southeast Asia ALl

●[733]
136

FIG. 7.—The Borneo Bank and the Great Sunda Barrier Reef on the East of the Sunda Platform

similar extensive developments on the western side of the continental shelf are prevented by slight upwellings of water produced behind offshore currents.

Within the 'mediterranean seas', the occurrences of coral are less extensive at any one point but they show much greater variety of form. Atolls, barriers and reefcaps at varying levels above, below and inclined to present sea levels and in varying degrees of symmetry to existing islands, may be found in this zone where there has been steady and repeated displacement of the geanticlines which form the chains of islands.

Several theories have been devised to account for the formation of coral. All of them start from the environmental requirements of the live polyp, which is eulittoral, and go on to account for the shape and extent of the accumulations of skeletons by some change of water level. In the Southeast Asia seas may be found examples to support those coral formation theories stressing sea level or eustatic change, a dominant process on the Sunda Platform, and also examples of corals associated with secular changes of the earth's crust, the chief physical factor operating among islands of the 'mediterranean seas' and the basis of theories attributing coral formations to submarine tectonic changes.